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Docket No. F-9185

Ser. No. 10/587,556

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A clamping device for fixing a clamping object to a base by releasably engaging with an inner wall of a hole or side wall formed in the clamping object, ~~wherein the clamping device is characterized by~~ comprising:

a clamping main body fixed to the base and which is communicatingly formed with a rod insertion hole and a piston receiving cavity[[,]];

a clamping rod which is inserted through the rod insertion hole of the clamping main body, ~~a and protruding its~~ top-end portion of the clamping rod protruding from the clamping main body, the top-end portion being provided with an engagement portion ~~capable of engaging~~ engageable with the inner wall or side wall of the hole[[,]];

a piston member movably mounted in the piston receiving cavity of the clamping main body[[,]];

a rod support mechanism which moves the engagement portion of the clamping ~~main-body rod~~ rod in a direction roughly rectangular to the longitudinal direction of the clamping rod and switchably supports the clamping rod in the clamping main body or the piston member ~~across~~ between a clamping position and a clamp release position[[,]];

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a piston driving ~~[[means]]~~ mechanism for driving the piston member across between the clamping position and the clamp release position, the piston driving mechanism being provided with a spring for elastically energizing the piston member away from the clamping object to the clamping position~~[[,]]~~; and

a cam mechanism for driving the engagement portion of the clamping rod in a clamping direction roughly rectangular to the longitudinal direction of the clamping rod by a driving force of the piston driving ~~[[means]]~~ mechanism for driving the piston member to the clamping position.

2. (Original) The clamping device according to claim 1, further comprising a rod return mechanism for returning the clamping rod to the clamp release position when the piston member is moved to the clamp release position.

3. (Original) The clamping device according to claim 2, wherein the rod support mechanism is constituted so as to rotatably support a longitudinal midway portion of the clamping rod on the clamping main body.

4. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to claim 3, wherein the cam mechanism is provided with a sphere or a roller rotatably mounted on a base end portion of the clamping rod and an inclined portion being formed in the piston member so that the sphere or the roller makes contact therewith.

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5. (Original) The clamping device according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the rod return mechanism is provided with a guided portion provided in the clamping rod and a guide provided in the piston member, which guides the guided portion and switches the clamping rod to the clamp release position.

6. (Original) The clamping device according to claim 2, wherein the rod support mechanism is constituted so as to slidably support the base end portion of the clamping rod on the piston member in a direction rectangular to the longitudinal direction of the clamping rod.

7. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to claim 6, wherein:

the cam mechanism is provided with a sphere or a roller rotatably mounted on the inner wall of the rod insertion hole of the clamping main body, and

an inclined portion is formed in the clamping rod so that the sphere or roller makes contact therewith.

8. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to claim 6 or 7, wherein:

the rod return mechanism is provided with a guided portion provided in the clamping rod, and

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a guide is provided in the clamping main body, which guides the guided portion and switches the clamping rod to the clamp release position.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to any one of claims 1-4 of claim 1-4, wherein the piston driving means is provided with an oil hydraulic operating chamber for driving the piston member to the clamp release position.

11. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to any one of claims 1-4 of claim 1-4, wherein the engagement portion of the clamping rod is provided with plural annular edges.

12. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to any one of claims 1-4 of claim 1-4, wherein an annular sealing member for sealing a space between the clamping main body and the clamping rod is fitted in the top-end portion of the rod insertion hole in the clamping main body.

13. (Currently amended) The clamping device according to any one of claims 1-4 of claim 1-4, wherein an air blowing means is provided for jetting air

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to a top end side of the rod insertion hole through an air passage between the clamping main body and the clamping rod.

14-18. (Cancelled)